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Rural District Council.

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**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

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OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR  
1937

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Rounce & Wortley, "Reliance" Printing Works, Holt;  
and at Cromer and Sheringham.



  
ERPINGHAM  
Rural District Council.

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# Erpingham Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1937.

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LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is required by an Order of the Ministry of Health, which outlines the scope, intent and the use of the Report.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Erpingham Rural District is situated on the North Coast of Norfolk. It is roughly oblong in shape, has an 18-mile seaboard, extending from Cley on the West to Mundesley on the East, and is twelve to thirteen miles deep from North to South. Breaking the continuity of the seaboard are the two small Urban Districts of Cromer and Sheringham, completely enclosed by and formerly part of the Rural District.

Population (Census 1931) (Estimated)—17,200.

Number of inhabited houses (1935)—5,080.

" " " (1936)—5,132.

" " " (1937)— , according to  
Rate Books.

Number of Families or separate occupiers—Census 1931—  
4,440.

Rateable Value—£64,651.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate—£268.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	BIRTHS.		
	Males.	Females	Total.
Legitimate ... ... ...	99	... ...	221
Illegitimate ... ... ...	9	... ...	16
<b>Total</b> ... ... ...	<b>108</b>	... ...	<b>237</b>
<b>Birth Rate</b> (1921)—17.92 per 1,000 population.			
(1922)—19.36	"	"	
(1923)—13.13	"	"	
(1924)—17.78	"	"	
(1925)—15.83	"	"	
(1926)—14.58	"	"	
(1927)—14.40	"	"	
(1928)—16.0	"	"	
(1929)—12.92	"	"	
(1930)—14.64	"	"	
(1931)—14.2	"	"	
(1932)—13.09	"	"	
(1933)—14.05	"	"	
(1934)—13.8	"	"	
(1935)—13.08	"	"	
(1936)—13.82	"	"	
(1937)—13.66	"	"	
<b>England &amp; Wales</b> (1937)—14.9	"	"	
	DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females	Total.
	109	114	223
<b>Death Rate</b> (1921)—11.17 per 1,000 population.			
(1922)—11.56	"	"	
(1923)—9.74	"	"	
(1924)—12.4	"	"	
(1925)—9.63	"	"	
(1926)—10.3	"	"	
(1927)—10.9	"	"	
(1928)—12.7	"	"	
(1929)—13.54	"	"	
(1930)—11.66	"	"	
(1931)—12.07	"	"	
(1932)—10.4	"	"	
(1933)—12.5	"	"	
(1934)—10.69	"	"	
(1935)—12.002	"	"	
(1936)—13.52	"	"	
(1937)—12.96	"	"	
<b>England &amp; Wales</b> (1937)—12.4	"	"	

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, diseases and accidents in pregnancy and childbirth:—

Sepsis ... ... ... ... Nil

Other Causes ... ... ... ... Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 births:—

1921	74.6
------	------

1922	56.71
------	-------

1923	46.59
------	-------

1924	79.61
------	-------

1925	43.01
------	-------

1926	34.88
------	-------

1927	59.4
------	------

1928	59.6
------	------

1929	56.9
------	------

1930	61.5
------	------

1931	50.4
------	------

1932	54.79
------	-------

1933	21.2
------	------

1934	38.6
------	------

1935	35.39
------	-------

1936	57.3
------	------

1937	29.53
------	-------

England & Wales 1937	58.0	
Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total deaths under 1 year.
5	2	7

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... ... nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... nil

### **General Provision of Health Services of the Area.**

#### **1. Public Health Officers to the Local Authority.**

Dr. D. B. C. Lawson, M.B., Ch.B., is Medical Officer of Health, part time.

Mr. Gordon L. Evatt, M.Inst.H.E., F.F.A.S., is whole time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

#### **2. Nursing in the Home.**

In cases of Infectious Disease which cannot conveniently be removed to Hospital, a Nurse is provided by the Council on some occasions.

#### **3. Midwives.**

Approximately 10 Midwives practise in the Area.

No Midwife is employed or subsidised by the Council.

#### **4. Laboratory Facilities.**

The County Laboratory examines swabs for Diphteria and other pathological specimens. Also specimens of Milk for the number of bacteria per cubic centimetre.

Water is examined by the County Analyst.

**5. Legislation in Force.**

Bye-Laws are in force to regulate:—

1. Nuisances.
2. Van Dwellers.
3. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.
4. Slaughter Houses.
5. Common Lodging Houses.

**6. Hospitals.**

The following hospitals are available for the inhabitants of the Area:—

1. Erpingham, North Walsham and Sheringham Joint Isolation Hospital—16 beds.
2. Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital.  
Jenny Lind Hospital for Children.  
North Walsham Cottage Hospital.  
Cromer and District Hospital.
3. Public Assistance Institution at West Beckham,  
to which all chronic necessitous sick cases are admitted.

Operative Surgery is performed at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Jenny Lind Hospital, North Walsham Cottage Hospital, and Cromer and District Hospital.

The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital has all the usual special departments. The Cromer and District Hospital has an excellent X-Ray apparatus.

**7. Maternity and Nursing Homes.**

One new Nursing Home was registered during the year.

**8. Ambulance Facilities.**

(a) The Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Cromer possesses an excellent ambulance, which is available throughout the district for non-infectious and accident cases.

(b) Infectious cases are removed to Hospital by a special motor car, which is disinfected immediately after removal.

**9. Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

There are no such Centres situated in the district under the control of the Council.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Cromer under the Norfolk County Tuberculosis Officer at stated intervals,

## 10. Maternal Mortality.

The County Medical Officer of Health has arranged with the District Medical Officer of Health for joint investigation with the local doctor in cases of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children or homeless children in the district.

No Health Visitor is provided by the Council.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water.

The Water Supply of the District falls into two different classes:—

1. **Deep Well Water.** Holt and Mundesley are supplied by a good, sufficient and constant supply of deep well water, raised by pumping from their own deep wells in the chalk.

Overstrand, Sidestrand, East and West Runton, Felbrigg and parts of Roughton and Northrepps are similarly supplied by the Cromer Waterworks from their deep well in the chalk at Metton.

The Council have their own deep well at the Joint Isolation Hospital—the water is raised by a windmill; it is excellent water and inexhaustible.

Kelling is supplied by water laid on from a spring from an outcrop of the chalk in the neighbouring hills, and in part by water pumped from Weybourne Springs by a Water Ram.

2. **Shallow Wells.** In almost every other village in the District the water is derived from Shallow Wells in the Glacial Drift. The water therefrom varies according to the position of the well, the care taken in its construction and measures taken to protect the water from contamination. The water is generally speaking good, and the district has been singularly free from water borne disease for a number of years.

A survey of the District shows little need for anxiety in case of prolonged drought. The position has been fully reviewed with a view to obtaining supplies from the piped areas in cases of emergency.

### Closet Accommodation.

Mundesley is provided with modern sewers and a water carriage system of drainage practically throughout. Holt is provided with a separate system of sewers. The sewage is treated by sedimentation and filtration through

coke beds and lands. The effluent eventually finds its way into the River Glaven after percolation through the intervening soil. Overstrand and the urban portions of Side-strand, West Runton and the confined portions of East Runton are provided with modern sewers, and a water carriage system of sewerage disposal;—the outfall being below ordinary low water mark in the North Sea.

The remaining villages are provided chiefly with Pail Closets entirely in the confined areas and to a large and increasing extent in the more open areas. Thus the villages of Cley, Aldborough, Northrepps, Trimingham and Gimingham have almost entirely Pail Closets. In the remaining villages Pail Closets are to be found wherever the cottages are closely situated. In the more open areas a few Midden Privies still remain. The necessity for the conversion is constantly urged and is slowly but surely bearing fruit.

#### **Scavenging.**

Mundesley, Holt, East and West Runton, Overstrand, Cley are provided with Sanitary Dust Bins which are emptied by a Public Scavenger as required.

The condition of the Refuse Tips at Holt, Mundesley, Overstrand and West Runton has been improved during the year.

The sites of the Tips are well chosen, and the manner in which the refuse is to be disposed of is in future to be incorporated in the contract.

Wherever possible the method of Controlled Tipping is to be employed, and it is hoped that this will lead to a very great improvement in the condition of the Tips.

#### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Elementary Schools in the district is satisfactory.

#### **Infectious Diseases in Schools.**

The School Medical Officer is notified by Teachers of all children absent from school on account of illness. Duplicates of such notifications are invariably sent to the Medical Officer of Health. Thus a child suffering from Diphtheria would be notified to the Medical Officer of Health by a Doctor and by the Head Teacher, who would also notify the M.O.H. of other children absent on account of sore throats and if they have seen their doctor.

This is an admirable arrangement and enables me to know the whereabouts and progress of all infectious cases—notifiable and non-notifiable. In the case of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified from a School the School is visited, the scholars inspected and absentees if necessary and endeavour made to exclude the infectious child or children.

It is regrettable that parents do not call in their family practitioner or teacher in cases of suspected Infectious Disease.

### Housing Statistics.

#### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ...	3.982
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... ...	5.110
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (including under subhead above (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 32	94
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... ...	136
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	45
(4) Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	39

#### 2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal notices ... ... ...

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ...

#### A.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Years:—

A, B, C, D, E, F ... ... ... ... Nil

### List of Cottages Built.

#### In 1912 and 1914—1909 Act:—

Briston ... ... ... ...	Transferred to
Edgefield ... ... ... ...	8 Walsingham
Baconsthorpe ... ... ... ...	6
Gimingham ... ... ... ...	4
West Beckham ... ... ... ...	2

## In 1919—Assisted:—

Holt	...	...	16
East Runton	...	...	4
Mundesley	...	...	4
Southrepps	...	...	4
Aylmerton	...	...	4
Transferred from Ingworth	...	...	4
Aylsham R.D.C. Colby	...	...	6
		—	42

## In 1923—1923 Act:—

East Runton	...	...	2
Northrepps	...	...	6
Knapton	...	...	Transferred to
Trimingham	...	...	2 Smallburgh
Gimingham	...	...	4
		—	14

## In 1924—1924 Act:—

Trunch	...	...	Transferred to Smallburgh
Knapton	...	...	Transferred to
Upper Sheringham	...	4	Smallburgh
Mundesley	...	...	4
Sidestrand	...	...	4
		—	12

## In 1925—24 Act:—

Antingham	...	...	6
Gresham	...	...	6
Southrepps	...	...	4
		—	16

## In 1926—24 Act:—

Cley	...	...	2
Aylmerton	...	...	4
West Beckham	...	...	2
Bodham	...	...	4
Salthouse	...	...	4
Transferred from Aylsham R.D.C.	Itteringham	...	2
	Erpingham	...	4
	Banningham	...	2
	Wickmere	...	2
	Corpusty	...	8
	Alby	...	4
		—	38

## In 1927—24 Act:—

Holt	...	...	10
Metton	...	...	2
Roughton	...	...	2
Thorpe Market	...	...	4
Trimingham	...	...	2
West Runton	...	...	4
Overstrand	...	...	4
Weybourne	...	...	4
Baconsthorpe	...	...	2
Felbrigg	...	...	2
East Runton	...	...	4
Cley	...	...	2
		—	42

## In 1928—1924 Act:—

Aylmerton	...	...	4
Bodham	...	...	4
Gresham	...	...	2
Holt	...	...	8
Overstrand	...	...	2
Trunch	...	...	Transferred to Smallburgh
		—	20

## In 1929—1924 Act:—

Lower Southrepps	...	...	4
Baconsthorpe	...	...	2
Briston	...	...	Transferred to
Gimingham	...	...	4 Walsingham
Knapton	...	...	Transferred to
Roughton	...	...	2 Smallburgh
Sustead	...	...	2
Metton	...	...	4
		—	18

## In 1930—1924 Act:—

Aylmerton	...	...	2
Felbrigg	...	...	2
Mundesley	...	...	2
Roughton	...	...	2
Briston	...	...	Transferred to
Edgefield	...	...	2 Walsingham
Metton	...	...	1
East Runton	...	...	4
		—	15

## In 1931:—

Northrepps	...	...	2
Thornage	...	...	4
Transferred from			
Aylsham R.D.C.	Corpusty	...	6
		—	12

## In 1933:—

Beckham	...	...	4
Bodham	...	...	2
Cley	...	...	8
Edgefield	...	...	4
Hempstead	...	...	4
Holt	...	...	10
Plumstead	...	...	4
Southrepps	...	...	2
Suffield	...	...	2
Thurgarton	...	...	4
Weybourne	...	...	4
	—		48

## In 1935:—

Holt	...	...	4
Bodham	...	...	4
Thurgarton	...	...	2
Sustead	...	...	2
Gimingham	...	...	2
Northrepps	...	...	2
Transferred from			
Aylsham R.D.C.	Alby	...	2
	—		18

## In 1936:—

Bodham	...	...	2
Felbrigg	...	...	2
Holt	...	...	8
Plumstead	...	...	5
Thornage	...	...	2
Thurgarton	...	...	3
	—		22

A scheme for 29 houses was in course of construction during 1937, which have now been completed.

Grand Total	...	...	366
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### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

The Milk produced throughout the district is of good quality and adequate in quantity.

All Dairies and Cowsheds have been regularly inspected during the year and several improvements carried out.

In accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health samples were taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

#### Meat.

All Slaughter Houses have been frequently inspected during the year.

The Council have put into force the resolution that all animals should be slaughtered by Humane Killers in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There is no public slaughter house in the district.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

### Prevalence Of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

The prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year was below the average.

There were 20 Cases of Scarlet Fever.

1 Case of Diphtheria.

No Cases of Enteric Fever.

1 Case of Puerperal Pyrexia.

5 Cases of Pneumonia.

No Cases of Erysipelas.

notified during the year.

The accommodation provided at the Isolation Hospital has proved sufficient.

Twenty-two cases were admitted during the year. 12 cases from the Erpingham District, 1 from the North Walsham, 2 from Sheringham, 6 from Cromer and 1 from Walsingham R.D.C.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever or of the artificial methods of immunization against these diseases, but the opportunity is being given and encouragement offered to the various Doctors concerned.

No primary vaccinations, or revaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, during the year.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied gratuitously in necessitous cases.

There is a steam disinfecter in the district, situated at the West Beckham Public Assistance Institution; also arrangements have been made whereby the steam disinfecter of the Sheringham Urban District Council can be used.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil
Scarlet Fever	... 20	... 12	... Nil
Diphtheria	... 1	... Nil	... Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 1	... 1	... Nil
Pneumonia	... 5	... Nil	... Nil
Erysipelas	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	... 1	... Nil	... Nil

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

1 case was notified during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

#### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	...	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
35—45	...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
55—65	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	...	6	1	5	2	2	2	—

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, during the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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Complaints received	...	...	...	...	96
Number detected without complaint	...	...	...	...	53
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	138
Notices served	...	...	...	...	14
Summons taken out	...	...	...	...	Nil
Convictions	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cottages inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	3982
Lodging Houses inspected	...	...	None in district		
Slaughter Houses inspections	...	...	...	...	223
Bakehouses inspections	...	...	...	...	35
Workshops inspections	...	...	...	...	51
Filthy Houses cleansed (See 46 P.H.A., 1875)	...	...	...	...	4
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	26
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	43
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	7
Houses erected or rebuilt for which water certificate sought	...	...	...	...	48
Certificates granted	...	...	...	...	48
Certificates deferred	...	...	...	...	Nil
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water	...	...	...	...	12
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	Nil
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Houses connected with sewers	...	...	...	...	23
Houses connected with water main	...	...	...	...	43
Earth, Pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered	...	...	...	...	14
Privies and W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	18
W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...	...	5
Cisterns cleansed, repaired and covered	...	...	...	...	5
Animals improperly kept, removed	...	...	...	...	3
Samples or water taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	2
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	...	...	...	...	Nil
Surrender of unsound meat, offal and 1 whole carcass	...	...	...	...	

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.**

FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ERPINGHAM.  
On the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act,  
1901. In connection with  
**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES.**

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**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors  
or Inspectors of Nuisances).

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
<b>Factories (including Factory</b>			
Laundries) ... ...	12	4	—
<b>Workshops (including Work-</b>			
shop Laundries) ...	18	—	—
<b>Workplaces (other than</b>			
Outworkers' premises) ...	21	—	Nil
<hr/>			
Total ...	51	4	Nil
<hr/>			

**2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

<b>Number of Defects.</b>		
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
<b>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</b>		
Want of Cleanliness ... ...	3	3
Total ... ...	3	3

(Signed) D. B. C. LAWSON, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health,

June, 1938.



